

## The Twelve.

Scripture: Luke 6:12-19 — April 7, 2024

Welcome from wherever you are joining us...

**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO MADE LAST SUNDAY AWESOME! Randy Bewley, Harrison  
9 AM— Bender Baby Dedication. 11 AM— Pray for Kids Church.**

### INTRODUCTION:

Have you ever had the playground experience of being picked last? More times than I can count. Who do you choose for a team first? Back in the day, it was the biggest, fastest, strongest, most athletic...

### TRANSITION:

#### STAND TO READ—Luke 6:12-19

During those days...

**CONTEXT:** *They {the scribes and Pharisees} were filled with rage and started discussing with one another what they might do to Jesus. Lk 6:11.*

**There is someone plotting your demise, and it's probably not who you think.**

**Spiritual warfare.**

*The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy, but I have come to give you life in all its fullness. John 10:10*

**The full life is a life following Jesus, so he picks a team of twelve incredibly talented, like-minded, overachieving, high-character studs to lead his ministry.**

he went out to the **mountain** to **pray** and spent **all night** in **prayer** to God.

**Prayer precedes Jesus' mission and ministry.**

Just as Jesus went to the desert to fast and pray, to be with God, before his ministry of healing signs and wonders, now Jesus spends the whole night in prayer before he calls his disciples and designates twelve to be apostles.

**Luke 3:21; 5:16, 6:12, 9:18, 9:28, 11:1, 18:1, 22:41**

...he often withdrew to deserted places and prayed...He was praying in private...he went to the mountain to pray...

### Where does he pray?

The scene is built around Jesus on a mountain, reenacting Moses ascending and descending Sinai. He goes up the mountain to pray and there chooses his twelve disciples

Grant R. Osborne, Luke: Verse by Verse, 161.

## **Mountains are kinda significant in the Bible.**

On the mountain after intense prayer, he—comes down off the mountain, and he gives them the Word of God. The question is ... *What does that mean?* The answer is ... *When was the last time that happened?*

At Mount Sinai, God called together the **twelve** tribes and sent Moses down off the mountain with his word. What was the purpose of the Law of God coming off of Mount Sinai? Popular understanding of the Law of God ... I think most people think the reason we have the Law of God is it's a way for us to find out how to find God and be saved. You obey the Law of God to be forgiven or be saved or get to heaven or get eternal life, and so on.

But when you read the book of Exodus, narratively, that's impossible. God does not give them the Law and then save them from slavery. He saves them from slavery and then gives them the Law.

Therefore, **the Law of God is never, in either the Old Testament or the New Testament, the way you get forgiven or the way you are saved.** So if he'd already saved them from slavery, why did he give them the Law?

What he says in the book of Exodus is, **"I'm going to make you into a people. I'm going to make you into a true human community, a new human community."** God says, in the book of Exodus, "The reason human community has unraveled everywhere, the reason individuals are at war with individuals and families are at war with families and nations are at war with nations is that when your relationship with me unravels, all other relationships unravel, and when a relationship with me is restored, that restores all other human relationships." Timothy J. Keller, [The Timothy Keller Sermon Archive](#).

Jesus is the true and better Moses, coming down from the mountain to shape and form people into a new community through the Word of God.

<sup>13</sup> When daylight came, he summoned his **disciples**, and he chose **twelve** of them, whom he also named **apostles**:

**Disciples**— learner, student

**Apostles**— sent one, someone sent

**Twelve**= **12 tribes** —

The choice of the number twelve is important, for it fits the twelve patriarchs and twelve tribes of Israel, signifying that the church is the new Israel and the twelve disciples in a sense the twelve patriarchs who will lead it. There is direct continuity between the two covenant groups. As Paul states in Romans 11:17–21, the church has not replaced the Israel of old but has joined it on the olive tree, and the Israels of the two covenants flow together into one.

*17 Now if some of the branches were broken off, and you, though a wild olive branch, were grafted in among them and have come to share in the rich root of the cultivated olive tree, 18 do not boast that you are better than those branches. But if you do boast—you do not sustain the root, but the root sustains you. 19 Then you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." 20 True enough; they were broken off because of unbelief, but you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but beware, 21 because if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either. **Ro 11:17–21.***

The joining of the Gentiles into that mix was always the intention, as the Abrahamic covenant showed (Gen 12:3). Grant R. Osborne, *Luke: Verse by Verse*, ed. Jeffrey Reimer, Elliot Ritzema, and Danielle Thevenaz, Awa Sarah, *Osborne New Testament Commentaries* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2018), 162.

**So Jesus selects 12 of his students and sends them out as ambassadors.**

**The Full Life—> moving from students to ambassadors.**

*17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come! 18 Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. 19 That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has committed the message of reconciliation to us. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God." 2 Co 5:17–20.*

**Are you experiencing the full life of living in the grace of God?**

**Have you moved from being a student to an ambassador?**

<sup>14</sup> Simon, whom he also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; <sup>15</sup> Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot; <sup>16</sup> Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

A group of weak men who lacked understanding, humility, faith, understanding, and power. But they were chosen by Jesus because his strength is made perfect in their weakness. **Johnny Mac**

What happened to these men? The New Testament features some of them and others remain in relative obscurity. However, tradition tells us that virtually every one of them met a dreadful and violent death, except for John, who suffered other ignominies and humiliations before being banished as an old man to the Isle of Patmos. Tradition also says that Bartholomew was crucified, that Thomas was thrust through with a spear and killed, that Simon Zelotes, according to tradition, was crucified in the year 74 in Britain, and the rest of the disciples suffered various kinds of martyrdom.

So we have the twelve men: one a traitor, eleven who committed themselves to their lives' end, who sealed the testimony of their faith in their own blood. These were the men whom God gave to the Son after he wrestled in prayer all night. **R. C. Sproul, [A Walk with God: An Exposition of Luke](#)** (Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications, 1999), 106.

**The mission of Jesus was given to ordinary people.**

What an interesting group of men! They illustrate what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 1:26–29, and they are an encouragement to us today. After all, if God could use them, can He not use us? **Warren W. Wiersbe, [The Bible Exposition Commentary](#), vol. 1** (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 191.

*26 Brothers and sisters, consider your calling: Not many were wise from a human perspective, not many powerful, not many of noble birth. 27 Instead, God has chosen what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen what is weak in the world to shame the strong. 28 God has chosen what is insignificant and despised in the world—what is viewed as nothing—to bring to nothing what is viewed as something, 29 so that no one may boast in his presence 1 Co 1:26–29.*

**Is there one of these people you identify with?**

Jesus chose these twelve men, with all their obvious weaknesses, to carry out his mission (Luke 22:28-30). Most of us don't need more information about Jesus' mission, **we simply need the confidence that he can and will use us to accomplish his mission. We need to hear testimony of God's use of ordinary men. We need to be reminded of how God has used us in the past.** Pastor Brad Mills

**Do you believe God can use you to accomplish his mission and ministry?  
What excuses are you making?**

<sup>17</sup> After coming down with them, he stood on a level place with a large crowd of his disciples and a great number of people from **all Judea and Jerusalem** and from the **seacoast of Tyre and Sidon**. <sup>18</sup> They came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those tormented by unclean spirits were made well. <sup>19</sup> The whole crowd was trying to touch him, because **power was coming out from him** and healing them all.

Coming down (**Lk 9:37**) the mountain and meets a crowd from all over the place (**Acts 1:8** — Jerusalem, Judea, the ends of the earth)

Judea and Jerusalem— **Jews**. Tyre and Sidon— **Gentiles**

**The ministry and the message were for Jews and Gentiles.**

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the **Jew**, and also to the **Greek**. **Ro 1:16.**

<sup>27</sup> For those of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is no **Jew** or **Greek**, slave or free, male and female; since you are all one in Christ Jesus.

<sup>29</sup> And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to the promise. **Ga 3:27-29.**

**GOOD NEWS:** No matter how messed up you are. You are not too far from God's grace.

<sup>20</sup> Then, looking up at his disciples, he said: Blessed are you...

And next week, we'll get into the message...

## COMMUNION

**On days like today, we celebrate God's kindness in using messed-up ordinary people who have encountered the grace of God to accomplish his purposes in the world.**

## PRAYER

**OFFERING— Make sure you say hi to someone new on the way out.**

## BENEDICTION

<sup>26</sup> Brothers and sisters, consider your calling: Not many were wise from a human perspective, not many powerful, not many of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> Instead, God has chosen what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen what is weak in the world to shame the strong. <sup>28</sup> God has chosen what is insignificant and despised in the world—what is viewed as nothing—to bring to nothing what is viewed as something, <sup>29</sup> so that no one may boast in his presence **1 Co 1:26-29**

### **Baby Dedication:**

A dedication does not bring about the salvation of the child, nor is a dedication a picture of the salvation of the child. It is not baptism. Instead, it is a set of promises by the parents in the presence of the church and an expression of faith and hope in God's future grace.

**Ps 127:3** — *Children are indeed a heritage from the Lord, offspring, a reward. God is the one who gives children; they belong to Him.*

**Do you recognize Eleanor as a gift of God and give heartfelt thanks for God's blessing?**

**Is it your desire today to dedicate Eleanor to the Lord who gave her to you, surrendering all worldly claims upon her life in the hope that she will belong wholly to God?**

**Eph 6:4**— *Fathers, don't stir up anger in your children, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

**Pr 22:6**— *Start a youth out on {her} way; even when he grows old {she} will not depart from it.*

**This is a proverb, not a promise.**

God calls every parent to the task of training up their children. Yet personal obedience is not the goal; faith is the goal. Through learning obedience to loving parents, our children can learn the joy of obedience to a loving God; this can then be a means of grace that God uses to bring the children to faith, and that very faith will bear fruit in genuine Christian obedience.

**Do you pledge as parents that, with God's help, you will raise Eleanor in the discipline and instruction of the Lord, making every reasonable effort, with patience and love, to instill the Word of God, the character of Christ, and the joy of the Lord into her life?**

**Do you promise to provide for Eleanor's physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual needs, looking to God for the wisdom, love, and strength to guide and serve her?**

**Do you promise to pray regularly that, by God's grace, Eleanor will come to trust in Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of her sins and, in this faith, follow Jesus as Lord, obeying all that he commands?**

After asking the parents these questions, we **ask the members of the church:**

***Do you pledge to pray for these little ones, and pledge to help these parents to live up to their promises?***

**PRAY over each child being dedicated.**

*Together with your parents, who love you dearly, and with these people who also love you and care about the outcome of your faith, we dedicate you to God, surrendering together with your family all worldly claims upon your life, in the hope that you will belong wholly to God by His grace forever.*